



SR1199

LRB099 15395 GRL 39666 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Walter William "Walt" Bittner of Normal, who passed away on October 28, 2015; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Bittner was born on November 12, 1917 in Springfield, Massachusetts; his parents were William and Helene Bittner; he married Irene Crutcher Bittner on May 17, 1941; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Bittner was the owner and operator of Bittner's Confectionary at Washington Street and Morris Avenue in Bloomington from 1938 to 1953; after selling the business, he began working at the National Bank of Bloomington, where he rose through the ranks from teller to vice president; he later worked for the Illinois Secretary of State Corporations Department and the driver's license facility in Bloomington; and

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WHEREAS, Walter Bittner's 44-year career in politics began in 1953; among the customers of his confectionary were members of the Bloomington City Council, who regularly gathered for hamburgers after Council meetings; because he often questioned their decisions, an alderman challenged him to run for a seat; upon being elected to the position in 1953, he served on the

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1 Council for 4 terms until being elected as Mayor in 1969; as
2 Mayor, he was most proud of his deciding vote to keep Miller
3 Park Zoo open; he retired from the Mayor's Office in 1977, but
4 was asked to fill a Council vacancy less than a year later; he
5 subsequently served another 20 years on the Council; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1998, Walter Bittner and his wife asked the
7 City to find a community use for their home at 504 West
8 Washington Street; the property became Mayors Manor, which
9 provides transitional housing for formerly homeless people; in
10 2004, the City named a new park on Towanda-Barnes Road after
11 him in honor of his accomplishments; and

12 WHEREAS, Walter Bittner was a founding member of the McLean
13 County Antique Automobile Club in 1963 and owned well over 100
14 antique cars during his adult life; he served on the planning
15 committee of the Illinois Secretary of State's Antique
16 Automobile and Sports Car Meet for 60 years, beginning with its
17 first event in 1949; he was also a member of the Cross Pointe
18 Church of God's Anderson, Indiana affiliate and held numerous
19 committee positions and memberships throughout his community;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Walter Bittner was preceded in death by his wife,
22 Irene; his parents; and his sister, Louise Giesecke; and

1 WHEREAS, Walter Bittner is survived by his children, Rick
2 (Noni) Bittner, Pam (Dave) Merrill, Jim (Marsha) Bittner, and
3 Lisa (Mark) Burnett Butzow; his 10 grandchildren; his 13
4 great-grandchildren; and his great-great-grandchild;
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
8 family and friends, mourn the passing of Walter William "Walt"
9 Bittner; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
11 presented to the family of Walter Bittner as an expression of
12 our sympathy.